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DAWKINS HONORED BY BIRDS {page 24}

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Tipping the scales of justice against guns

Violence-weary residents of beleaguered neighborhoods are now storming Philly courtrooms during sentencing hearings Efforts garnering longer prison terms {page 04}

AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

NFL. Eagles win

▶ Brandon Graham celebrates after Giants kicker Lawrence Tynes missed a 54-yard field goal with seconds left in regulation. {page 23}

Eagles beat East division rival Giants, 19-17, move to 3-1

news

2,000th death in Afghan War

Terrible mark hit when two killed over weekend {page 07}

news

10 years later, sniper talks

Lee Boyd Malvo felt like 'worst piece of scum' {page 06}

the word

Four weddings and a funeral?

Or three weddings and a rap brawl on Saturday {page 10}

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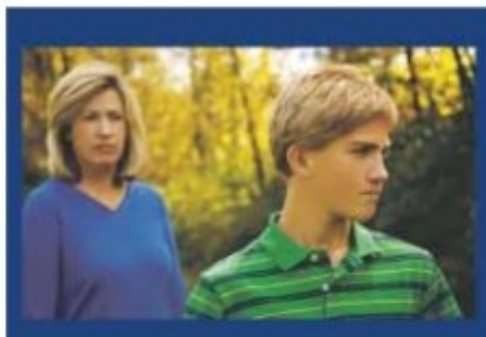

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1

In the news

Gunfire in North Philly

A gunman on a bicycle shot a man, 23, multiple times in the torso on the 3200 block of West Arizona Street around 1:45 p.m. yesterday, police said. The victim died at Temple University Hospital. Another man was injured nearby during a second shooting hours later. METRO/AW

In the news

Cyber attacks 'escalating'

Verizon is helping to investigate a series of cyber attacks that have disrupted the websites of the biggest U.S. banks, a company official said, calling it an "escalation" and noting that attackers commandeered commercial servers to overwhelm the sites with traffic. AT&T and Comcast didn't respond to requests for comment about whether they are also investigating the attacks. REUTERS

Parade. Puerto Rican Day

▶ Nilda Ruiz, president and CEO of Asociación Puertorriqueños en Marcha, took shade under an epic straw hat.

REKARD LARMA/METRO

Puerto Ricans take to streets to mark a 50th anniversary

About 7,500 participants and spectators lined the Benjamin Franklin Parkway yesterday for the 2012 Puerto Rican Day Parade. The annual event capped off this year's Puerto Rican Festival, the theme of which, "La Mujer Puertorriqueña," recognized women's contributions to the city's Puerto Rican culture. The parade was especially celebratory this year, as it marked the 50th anniversary of the Council of Spanish Speaking Organizations of Philadelphia, also known as Concilio, the city's oldest Latino social services agency. METRO

Joyride by 10-year-old ends in crash

WEST PHILADELPHIA. A 10-year-old, police say, went on a brief joyride in a stolen pickup yesterday.

A man told police he parked his truck at the 6200 block of Market Street around 1 p.m. while unloading furniture. He says that's when the boy took the keys from the rear door and sped off. Police say the child drove for about a block before crashing into five parked vehicles, and was detained by neighbors until police arrived. Investigators said he will be charged with auto theft. METRO/AW

5 Parked vehicles were damaged when the 10-year-old joyrider crashed the stolen car he was driving near 62nd and Market streets, police said.

Religion, politics converge — albeit briefly — in Philly

Mitt Romney, Christian group give liberal city rare spotlight in otherwise frantic political season ◐ What a difference four years makes, pollster says

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Romney appeared in Philadelphia and Valley Forge on Friday.

First came Mitt Romney, though he met privately with Philadelphia's big-money conservative supporters at the Union League early Friday in hopes of raising a couple million dollars for the home stretch of the presidential campaign.

Then came thousands of Christian conservatives, who met very much in public by taking over most of Independence Mall starting Friday afternoon through Saturday.

Both causes made rare appearances in the heart of a liberal city. For Romney, it was his first appearance in all of Pennsylvania in the past six weeks. As the state's leading pollster, Terry Madonna of Franklin & Marshall College, put it, "I joke and say we're the surrogate king."

"We got [Mitt's son] Josh Romney last week. We're getting another son this week. Debbie Wasserman Schultz is appearing for the Ds," said Madonna, whose most recent Keystone poll showed Obama with a solid 11-point lead. "We got 40 visits between Labor Day and the election in 2008 from Obama-Biden and McCain-Palin."

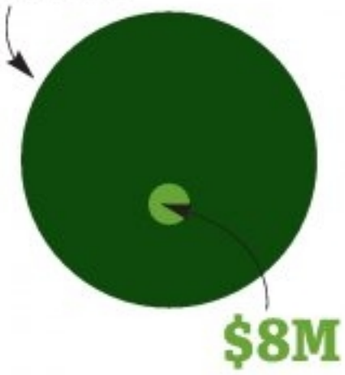
Another conservative interest group, America for Jesus 2012, a conservative Christian rally organized by religious coalition One Nation Under God, gathered an estimated 8,000 people on Independence Mall.

The massive prayer fest, which was convened to address the country's "spiritual drift," didn't endorse a party or candidate, but rather called for a nationwide movement rooted in "Bible-based righteousness" over partisan politics, according to a release from the organizers.

"As you gather in this historic place, which gave birth to our nation's Declaration of Independence, may your presence give birth to a new declaration for our nation, a declaration of dependence upon almighty God," the Rev. Billy Graham said in a statement read during the two-day event. Pat Robertson, of the 700 Club, said the nation's destiny will be decided in the church house, not in the White House. "We will never change America through politics," he said. "We will only change America through a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit." METRO

Money spent

$69M
CAMPAIGN MONEY SPENT IN PENNSYLVANIA IN 2008, INCLUDING $40 MILLION BY OBAMA AND $29 MILLION BY MCCAIN



$8M
CAMPAIGN MONEY SPENT IN PENNSYLVANIA IN 2012

50% Pennsylvania voters who said they would vote for President Barack Obama, according to the most recent Franklin & Marshall College Poll released Sept. 26

39% Pennsylvania voters who said they would vote for Romney, with another 11 percent of voters undecided or said they did not know

Day in photos

Phillies' last home game ends in injury

Slugger Ryan Howard, long known for his gargatuan moon shots over Citizens Bank Park outfield walls, is now known as much for his freakish season-ending injuries.

A Metro photographer captured images from around the ballpark to catalog this year's somber end to baseball in South Philly and at one point found himself just feet from Howard in the batter's box, which is where the ballplayer suffered his bizarre injury.

Manager Charlie Manual said Saturday that Howard broke his big toe with the lead pipe he uses to loosen up before each at bat. He won't play in the last series of the year against the Nationals starting tonight. METRO

▶ Howard hurt himself in the batter's box.

▶ A Phillies employee had his hands full with all three bases prior to the game.

▶ Manuel passed his time in the dugout chewing gum.

PHOTOS: RIKARD LARMA/METRO

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Crime-fighting in courtrooms instead of on Philly's streets

After decades of fighting crime on the streets, a rising tide of activists are waging the same war on a new battlefield: the courtroom.

"When everyone gets a slap on the wrist, it eradicates the community," said one of those activists, a Point Breeze resident with CeaseFirePA's CourtWatch program as she attended a gun possession sentencing hearing last month. "That's what they've been getting away with because they say there's no one out there that cares. We need to show them that's not true. We want to send a message and take back our neighborhood."

CeaseFirePA has created a citywide network of about 100 neighborhood observers. On one day last month, residents from the 17th District gathered in court to witness proceedings against Jerry Carver, 25, who was arrested last July and charged with drug possession and illegal firearm offenses.

Community Relations Officer Paul Bryson marshaled residents to the South Philadelphia police station and drove them to court with the promise of breakfast after the hearing.

"This brings people together to give life back to that community," Bryson said. "Without the input of the community, judges don't know what affects neighborhoods — they don't live there." CeaseFirePA director Max Nacheman said CourtWatch kicked into high gear about a year ago.

"Sentences in similar cases go through the roof when people in the neighborhood come in," he said. "The judge sees the neighborhood wants to see a tough sentence."

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Residents have started to face those accused of firearms offenses in the courtroom, shortly after the defendants get off this bus.

Quoted

"If you walk in on gun possession charges and walk out in two years, that's a price, not a penalty. Being caught by police with a gun is better than being caught by peers without one and we want to change that because illegal gun owners weigh that in their minds before leaving their homes every day." NACHEMAN

Illegal guns aren't yet violent crimes in Pa.

CeaseFirePA has been advocating for legislation in Harrisburg automatically classifying illegal gun possession as a violent crime. As originally written, House Bill 2331 would have instituted a five-year minimum sentence for illegal gun possession. Though it passed the state's House of Representatives in the spring, the bill lost much of its teeth when it was amended during a state Senate hearing last week.

As it reads now, the legislation classifies a first offense illegal gun possession as a second-degree felony and subsequent offenses as first-degree felonies with stepped-up sentencing guidelines, though prosecutors may consider mitigating factors such as whether the firearm was loaded. The language defining gun possession as a crime of violence, along with murder, rape, assault, robbery and burglary, was removed.

METRO/AW

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
awigglesworth@metro.us

Community on watch

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

Some of CourtWatch's recent cases include:

- **Aug. 6** — Christian Hall, 24, was sentenced to five years in prison and two years of probation after pleading guilty to numerous counts of straw purchasing in Olney. The judge cited the presence of the community members.
- **Aug. 17** — A judge resentenced Kevin Pickard, 26, to 17 to 34 years for a 2010 shootout in Southwest Philadelphia a mere week after she handed down the minimum five to 10 years. The courtroom was packed with community members and police brass outraged by the initial minimum penalty.
- **Sept. 4** — Joshua Stokes, 25, was sentenced to 35 to 70 years for assault, intimidation, and weapons charges.
- **Sept. 12** — Leslie Sampson, 28, was sentenced to nine to 26 months for straw purchasing two guns in 2010.

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31 DEN 7:00 CSN	1	2	3
4 NYK 12:00 CSN	5 NYK 7:00 CSN	6	7 NOH 8:00 CSN/ESPN	8	9 BOS 7:30 CSN	10 TOR 7:00 TCN
11	12 MIL 7:00 CSN	13	14 DET 7:00 CSN	15	16 UTA 7:00 ESPN/TCN	17
18 CLE 6:00 CSN/MBATV	19	20 TOR 7:00 CSN	21 CLE 7:00 TCN	22	23	24 OKC 7:00 CSN
25 PHX 6:00 CSN	26	27 DAL 7:00 CSN	28	29	30 CHA 7:00 CSN	

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 CHI 8:00 CSN
2	3	4 MIN 7:00 CSN	5	6	7 BOS 7:00 CSN/ESPN	8 BOS 7:30 CSN
9	10 DET 7:00 CSN	11	12 CHI 7:30 CSN	13	14 IND 7:00 CSN	15
16 LAL 6:00 CSN	17	18 DAL 8:30 CSN	19 HOU 8:00 CSN	20	21 ATL 7:00 CSN	22
23 BKN 3:00 TCN / 30	24 / 31	25	26 MEM 8:00 CSN	27	28 GS 10:30 CSN	29 POR 10:00 TCN

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 LAL 10:30 CSN	2 PHX 10:00 CSN	3	4 OKC 8:00 CSN	5 SA 8:30 CSN
6	7	8 BKN 7:00 CSN	9 TOR 7:00 CSN	10	11	12 HOU 7:30 CSN
13	14	15 NOH 7:00 CSN	16	17	18 TOR 7:00 CSN	19
20	21 SA 7:00 TNT	22 MIL 8:00 CSN	23	24	25	26 NYK 7:00 CSN
27	28 MEM 7:00 CSN	29	30 WAS 7:00 CSN	31		

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 SAC 7:30 TCN	2
3	4 ORL 7:00 CSN	5	6 IND 7:00 CSN	7	8	9 CHA 8:00 CSN
10	11 LAC 7:00 CSN	12	13 MIL 8:00 CSN	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 MIN 8:00 CSN	21	22	23 MIA 7:30 CSN
24 NYK 8:00 CSN/ESPN	25	26 ORL 7:00 CSN	27	28 CHI 8:00 TNT		

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 GS 7:00 CSN/MBATV
3 WAS 6:00 CSN	4	5 BOS 7:00 TNT	6 ATL 7:30 CSN	7	8 MIA 8:00 CSN/ESPN	9
10 ORL 6:00 CSN	11 BKN 7:00 CSN	12	13 MIA 7:00 CSN	14	15	16 IND 7:30 CSN/ESPN
17	18 POR 7:00 CSN	19	20 LAC 10:30 CSN	21 DEN 9:00 CSN	22	23
24 SAC 9:00 CSN / 31	25 UTA 9:00 CSN	26	27 MIL 7:00 CSN	28	29 CLE 7:30 CSN	30 CHA 7:30 CSN

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 CHA 7:00 CSN	4	5 ATL 7:30 CSN	6 MIA 7:30 TCN
7	8	9 BKN 7:30 TCN	10 ATL 7:00 CSN	11	12 WAS 7:00 CSN	13
14 CLE 3:30 CSN	15 DET 7:30 CSN	16	17 IND 8:00 CSN	18	19	20

HOME AWAY

Metro photo challenge

▶ "My Country's Best" is by Benoit Menard from Beauvais, France.

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Ten years later, DC sniper says he felt like 'scum'

Convicted Washington sniper Lee Boyd Malvo said the devastated reaction of a victim's husband 10 years ago made him feel like "the worst piece of scum on the planet," The Washington Post reported yesterday.

In a rare interview, Malvo, 27, urged the families of victims to try to forget about him and his partner, John Allen Muhammad, so they can get on with their lives.

Tomorrow marks the 10th anniversary of the start of Malvo and Muhammad's deadly rampage in the Washington area.

The pair was linked to 27 shootings across the country, including 10 fatal attacks in the Washington area over 23 days.

"It is the worst sort of pain I have ever seen in my life," he told the Post of Ted Franklin's eyes.

One of the victims

Muhammad killed Linda Franklin, a 47-year-old FBI analyst, as she and her husband, Ted, loaded purchases at a Home Depot in Falls Church, Va. Malvo, with binoculars, acted as spotter.

27

The pair was linked to 27 shootings across the country.

"Words do not possess the depth in which to fully convey that emotion and what I felt when I saw it. ... You feel like the worst piece of scum on the planet." **REUTERS**

SHAWN THEW/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Malvo said there was no way to convey an apology to the victims' families.

In the news

California bans gay conversion therapy for minors

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Brown

SACRAMENTO. Governor Jerry Brown has signed a bill barring a controversial therapy that aims to reverse homosexuality in minors, the measure's sponsor said yesterday, making California the first state to ban a practice many say is psychologically damaging.

The move marked a major victory for gay rights advocates who say so-called conversion therapy, also called reparative therapy, has no medical basis because homosexuality is not a disorder.

The bill's sponsor, state Senator Ted Lieu, a Democrat from Torrance, said in a statement that Brown had signed the bill. An announcement from the governor's office was expected last night.

The bill prohibits children and teens under 18 from undergoing sexual orientation change efforts. It got support from the California Psychological Association and the California Board of Behavioral Sciences, among others. **REUTERS**

Speed freak serial killer finally says where bodies are

Chevelle "Chevy" Wheeler's mother dropped her off at Franklin High School in Stockton, Calif., the morning of Oct. 7, 1985. Paula Wheeler never saw her daughter again.

She still recalls the scene 16 years later, when the man convicted of killing her daughter and three others turned to her in court and highlighted the painful fact that her child's body had never been found.

Wesley Shermantine long refused to offer information about his victims' whereabouts.

But after more than a decade of silence, Shermantine, 46, has begun to speak out about the string of murders — by his count, six dozen — he committed with his childhood friend, Loren Herzog. Shermantine began speaking last year to a bounty hunter who offered him money in exchange for the location of burial sites. **REUTERS**

"My parents will know where I'm at when I'm gone, but you'll never know where Chevy is."

WESLEY SHERMANTINE, TO CHEVELLE WHEELER'S PARENTS

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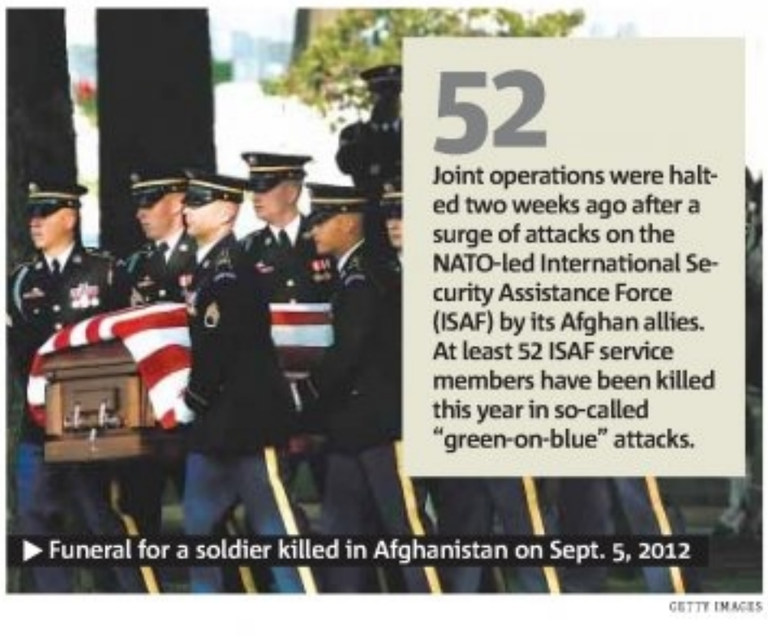
US death toll in Afghanistan exceeds 2,000

Two Americans were killed in Afghanistan during an exchange of fire between NATO-led forces and the Afghan army that may have been the result of a misunderstanding, as the death toll of U.S. military and civilian personnel passed 2,000.

An American soldier and a civilian contractor were killed in the incident in eastern Afghanistan.

The coalition initially said the incident may have been the result of an "insider attack" and another example of a member of the Afghan national security force turning on coalition troops in a war that began in 2001. **REUTERS**



▶ Funeral for a soldier killed in Afghanistan on Sept. 5, 2012

GETTY IMAGES

52

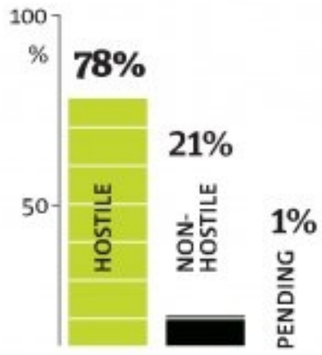
Joint operations were halted two weeks ago after a surge of attacks on the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) by its Afghan allies. At least 52 ISAF service members have been killed this year in so-called "green-on-blue" attacks.

The breakdown

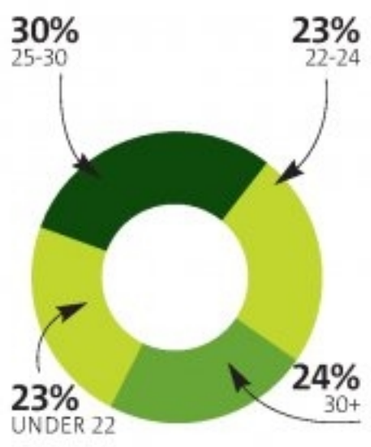
Casualties, by gender:

2,077
MALE MILITARY PERSONNEL

Casualties, by type (hostile, non-hostile and pending):



Casualties, by age:



U.S. Military Casualties in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) as of Sept. 28, according to the U.S. Department of Defense

News in brief

Muslim protesters torch Buddhist temples, homes in Bangladesh

Hundreds of Muslims in Bangladesh burned at least four Buddhist temples and 15 homes of Buddhists yesterday after complaining that a Buddhist man had insulted Islam, police and residents said. Members of the Buddhist minority in the Cox's Bazar area in the southeast of the country said unidentified people were bent on upsetting peaceful relations between Muslims and Buddhists. Muslims took to the streets in the area late Saturday to protest against what they said was a photograph posted on Facebook that insulted Islam. The protesters said the picture had been posted by a Buddhist. **REUTERS**

BP spill settlement talks stall as US demands $18B

Talks between BP and the U.S. government over a settlement for the 2010 oil spill have stalled because the U.S. is insisting that the British oil giant pay at least $18 billion, British newspaper the Sunday Times reported. A settlement deal may not happen until early next year, the newspaper quoted sources close to the company as saying.

$25B Reports in July suggested that the U.S. was looking for a settlement of $25 billion.

A settlement between $18 billion to $21 billion is near the level that BP would be required to pay, should it be found grossly negligent under the Clean Water Act. **REUTERS**

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Russian church tells 'Pussy Riot' to repent before appeal

The Russian Orthodox Church yesterday called for members of the Pussy Riot punk band to repent, on the eve of an appeal court hearing they hope will quash their two-year jail sentences for performing an anti-Kremlin song in Moscow's main cathedral.

The three women — who belted out a "punk prayer" criticizing President Vladimir Putin's close ties to the Russian Orthodox Church — were convicted of "hooliganism motivated by religious hatred."

The tough jail sentences they received saw the West sharply criticize Putin because of doubts over the independence of the judiciary, and global celebrities called for leniency for the women. **REUTERS**

In the news

Pope's bid to heal wounds with Catholic rebels looks doomed

PARIS. Pope Benedict's bid to draw rebel Catholic traditionalists back to the Roman fold, seems to have hit a dead end with little apparent hope of a solution.

Two leaders of the Society of St Pius X, which broke away over reforms of the 1962-1965 Second Vatican Council, have recently rejected his conditions for their rehabilitation after a series of contacts following his 2005 election as pope. **REUTERS**

Israel looks to Azerbaijan as a way to attack Iran without US assistance

Israel's "go-it-alone" option to attack Iran's nuclear sites has set the Middle East on edge and unsettled its main ally at the height of a U.S. presidential election campaign.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu exudes impatience, saying Tehran is barely a year from a "red line" for atomic capacity. Many fellow Israelis, however, fear a unilateral strike, lacking U.S. forces, would fail against such a large and distant enemy.

But what if, without Washington, Israel were not alone?

Azerbaijan, the oil-rich ex-Soviet republic on Iran's far northern border, has, say local sources with knowledge of its military policy, explored with Israel how Azeri air bases and spy drones might help Israeli jets pull off a long-range attack.

That is a far cry from the state — and an object of scorn in Tehran — is no secret; a $1.6-billion arms deal involving dozens of Israeli drones, and Israel's thirst for Azerbaijan's Caspian Sea crude, are well documented.

KAREN MINASYAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ The administration of U.S. President Barack Obama has made clear it does not welcome Israel's occasional talk of war.

Rare relationship

Aliyev, an autocratic ally of Western governments and oil firms, has become a rare Muslim friend of the Jewish

"Where planes would fly from — from here, from there, to where? — that's what's being planned now."

SECURITY CONSULTANT WITH CONTACTS AT AZERI DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS IN BAKU

massive firepower and diplomatic cover that Netanyahu wants from Washington. But, by addressing key weaknesses in any Israeli war plan — notably on refuelling, reconnaissance and rescuing crews — such an alliance might tilt Israeli thinking on the feasibility of acting without U.S. help.

But many doubt Azeri President Ilham Aliyev would risk harming the energy industry on which his wealth depends or provoking Islamists who dream of toppling his dynasty, in pursuit of favor from Israel.

Despite denials by Azerbaijan and Israel, two Azeri former military officers and two Russian intelligence sources told Reuters that Azerbaijan and Israel have been looking at how Azeri bases and intelligence could serve in a possible strike on Iran. **REUTERS**

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A call to end partisanship

Former deficit commission chair: Both sides must work on budget

The federal government is unable to erase its massive budget deficit because it's plagued by a deep, self-serving partisanship in Congress that's fueled by special interests like anti-tax crusader Grover Norquist, according to the former chairmen of President Barack Obama's deficit reduction commission.

"These trillion-dollar deficits, they are like a cancer, and they are going to destroy this country from within," said Erskine Bowles, a former chief of staff for then-President Bill Clinton. Bowles and Alan Simpson, a Republican and former senator from Wyoming, helped author a bipartisan plan to restrain the nation's $16 trillion debt, only to have it rejected on Capitol Hill.

The plan, which recommended a mix of spending cuts and tax increases, was killed off because too many lawmakers refuse to compromise for fear of endangering their reelection prospects, Bowles and Simpson told a group of George Washington University students while taping the Colorado-based "Aaron Harber Show." The show will be available to Comcast customers through the network's On Demand service. **HAYLEY PETERSON, WASHINGTON EXAMINER**

"We need folks here in Washington to wake up and put this partisanship aside. We face the most predictable economic crisis in history ... which is also the most avoidable crisis in history." **ERSKINE BOWLES**

Christie: Debate will turn race upside down

Three days before the first presidential debate, allies of Barack Obama and Mitt Romney debated yesterday how the encounter between contenders will influence the election on Nov. 6.

In typical straight-talking fashion, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie predicted that fellow Republican Romney's performance at Wednesday's debate would alter the course of the campaign.

"This whole race is going to turn upside down come Thursday morning," Christie told CBS' "Face the Nation."

His comments strayed from the script of both campaigns, which have tried to play down their own candidate's chances at the debate in Denver and talk up their opponent. **REUTERS**

Surprise endorsement

JUAN BARRETO/AFP/GETTYIMAGES

▶ Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who is running for a fourth term, gave a surprise endorsement to Obama.

With both presidents facing tight reelection fights, Venezuela's Hugo Chavez gave a surprise endorsement to Barack Obama yesterday — and said the U.S. leader no doubt felt the same.

"I hope this doesn't harm Obama, but if I was from the United States, I'd vote for Obama," the socialist Chavez said of a man he reached out to in 2009 but to whom he has generally been insulting. **REUTERS**

What to look for during debates

1. **Romney on offense**: With less than six weeks to go, Romney must deliver a momentum-shifting performance. Obama merely must avoid catastrophe.
2. **Eyes never lie**: TV is a visual medium, and the body language of the candidates can have a bigger impact than their words.
3. **Who wins the first round:** The first 30 minutes often determine who will win the debate, though impact probably won't register in the polls for a few days.
4. **The devil's in the details:** Both candidates have charged the other with being loose with the facts. Expect them to keep it up. **REUTERS**

FOIA failures

As Obama nears the end of his term, his promise to "usher in a new era of open government" regarding the Freedom of Information Act has come up short, an analysis reveals. **BLOOMBERG**

19 out of 20 cabinet-level agencies disobeyed the law requiring disclosure of public information.

8 out of 57 federal agencies met Bloomberg's requests for information within the 20-day window.

Metropolitick

GREGORY KANE

PULITZER-NOMINATED NEWS AND OPINION JOURNALIST

THERE ARE BATS IN THE DEMOCRAT BELFRY, TOO

If Republicans and conservatives were the tit-for-tat type, we'd be claiming that all liberals, progressives and Democrats are as totally goofy as the singer Madonna. She's a big supporter of President Obama, Madonna is. And of same-sex marriage. And of that group of Russian rowdies known as Pussy Riot.

At a Monday concert in Washington, this is what Madonna said as she happily chirped about her support for Obama. "Now it's so amazing and incredible to think that we have an African-American man in the White House. ... We have a black Muslim in the White House. ... It means there is hope in this country, and Obama is fighting for gay rights, so support the man."

Fox News' website reported a few extra details from her comments: "Y'all better vote for |f—ing| Obama, OK? For better or worse, all right? We have a black Muslim in the White House. Now that's some amazing |s—|." Madonna would later claim her remarks had been made ironically. Kind of cute that she thinks people would buy that.

The 54-year-old pop star then stripped down to her bra, revealing that she had stenciled the word "Obama" on her back. Then, according to the Fox News report, she told the audience, "When Obama is in the White House for a second term, I'll take it all off."

Never has it been more imperative for a Republican to win a presidential election. I haven't seen one of those young black men in the Nation of Islam selling bean pies and Final Call newspapers on the streets of Baltimore or Washington who even REMOTELY looks like one Barack Hussein Obama.

As noted before, for all those misinformed people who have been incorrectly identifying Obama as a Muslim for years, the man is a Christian. Or at least he claims to be. I don't know how a person squares being a devout Christian with the near-fanatical devotion that Obama has to infanticide — he would call it being pro-choice — but who am I to judge? The fact is, the man has identified himself as a Christian, not a Muslim.

Quoted

[Madonna] then stripped down to her bra, revealing that she had stenciled the word "Obama" on her back. Then, according to the Fox News report, she told the audience, "When Obama is in the White House for a second term, I'll take it all off." Never has it been more imperative for a Republican to win a presidential election.

We now have to wonder just where in liberal fantasyland Madonna is getting her facts. Probably from the same place that New York Rep. Yvette Clarke, another Democrat, gets hers.

In early September, Clarke appeared on Comedy Central's "Colbert Report." As it turned out, she was on the right network. "If you could get in a time machine and go back to 1898, what would you say to those Brooklynites?" host Stephen Colbert asked Clarke, who represents a portion of Brooklyn. "I would say to them, 'Set me free,'" Colbert answered.

What, Colbert asked, would Clarke want to be free from in the New York of 1898?

"Slavery," Clarke answered. "Slavery? Really?" Colbert answered. "I didn't realize there was slavery in Brooklyn in 1898." (Colbert must be a guy who really likes rolling the dice with his sanity.)

"I'm sure there was," Clarke persisted.

"Who would be enslaving you in 1898 in New York?" Colbert asked. "The Dutch," Clarke answered. "Those sneaky Dutch bastards," Colbert jested.

"Exactly," Clarke responded, too daffy to realize she had just been the butt of what might be the joke of the decade. According to a story on The Huffington Post — which did manage to run this story of an example of what happens when liberals and Democrats go dingbat — Clarke was at one point chairwoman of the U.S. House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, Science and Technology.

If that's not enough to make you move to Canada, I don't know what is.

*– Examiner Columnist **Gregory Kane** is a Pulitzer-nominated news and opinion journalist who has covered people and politics from Baltimore to the Sudan.*

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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Kelly Clarkson doesn't know what's become of her, Zachary Quinto has all the answers, Jonah Hill is hopefully kidding and Jared Followill gets hitched.

@kelly_clarkson
So I recently started acupuncture and yoga ....next thing you know I'll be going to coffee shops and writing in a journal Whatever works ha!

@ZacharyQuinto
if you don't want to listen to a liberal gay marriage supporting actor type... then don't.

@JonahHill
My feelings are more important than yours

@youngfollowill
Today, I get married. It's the biggest step I've ever taken. I've dreamed about this day since I was a little girl.

Zachary Quinto

A big weekend for eternal celebrity love

Let's get a rundown of all the fancy celebrity weddings we weren't invited to over the weekend, shall we?

First up is **Anne Hathaway**, 29, who married actor and jewelry designer **Adam Shulman**, 31, her boyfriend of more than four years, in a private ceremony in Big Sur, Calif. Hathaway donned a Valentino Garavani gown for the sunset ceremony that had about 180 guests in attendance.

Second: Kings of Leon bassist **Jared Followill**, 25, and model **Martha Patterson**, 21, who were married at Front Porch Farms about 40 miles outside of their Nashville home. A guest told People that "they had a great farm-to-table cuisine with all of their favorite things. It was down home and very real. It was very much true to their style."

Meanwhile, it was an international affair for "So You Think You Can Dance" host **Cat Deeley**, 35, who married Irish singer and TV host **Patrick Kielty**, 45, in Rome on Saturday.

▶ Followill posted this picture to his Instagram account with the caption, "Aaaaaand I'm married. Happiest man in the world."

Shoving leads to gunfire at BET Awards

Scuffles broke out at the BET Hip-Hop Awards on Saturday in Atlanta. **Rick Ross** and **Young Jeezy** were reportedly involved in an altercation backstage at the annual awards ceremony. **Funk Master Flex** posted to Twitter that he witnessed "pushing and shoving" between the two. Then the rappers and their entourages took the fight outside. Shots were reportedly fired in the parking lot by a member of Rick Ross' entourage.

The gunman was apprehended by the Atlanta Police Department. AllHipHop.com sources also reported that **50 Cent** and **Gunplay** were involved in an altercation as well.

Considering his history, 50 should know to stay away from gunplay at all costs.

▶ Young Jeezy

Rowling. Reads

▶ Rowling poses for photographers with her new book "The Casual Vacancy."

GETTY IMAGES

Moving on from Muggles

J.K. Rowling read from her first novel for adults, "The Casual Vacancy," in London on Thursday. Despite critics being less than enthusiastic for the book, it's on target to be a huge bestseller for the "Harry Potter" author (no surprise there).

Talking points

More on the love reunion of Stewart and Pattinson

While **Kristen Stewart** and **Robert Pattinson** seem happy to be back together after her cheating scandal over the summer, their friends reportedly aren't so thrilled about the rekindled romance, according to Hollyscoop. "Kristen and Rob's friends absolutely don't believe that this reconciliation is going to last. Rob believes that Kristen didn't sleep with [director] **Rupert [Sanders]**, but the fact is she still cheated on him," a source says. "Rob's pals think it was easier for him to get back together with her right now because of the upcoming publicity blitz they are going to embark on to promote 'Breaking Dawn.'" As for the long-term prospects of the reunited couple? They aren't so optimistic: "Kristen loves Rob, no question about it, but she just isn't as mature as he is," the source says. "Rob's buddies would be stunned if the couple goes the distance."

Kutcher had a thing for Kunis for years

Ashton Kutcher's new romance with **Mila Kunis** has apparently been a long time coming, according to Us Weekly. "He's always had a thing for her," a source says. "It's a real infatuation." The pair have reportedly been together for five months but have kept things quiet until recently, as they've been spotted all over New York City offering up plenty of public displays of affection.

▶ Malin Akerman

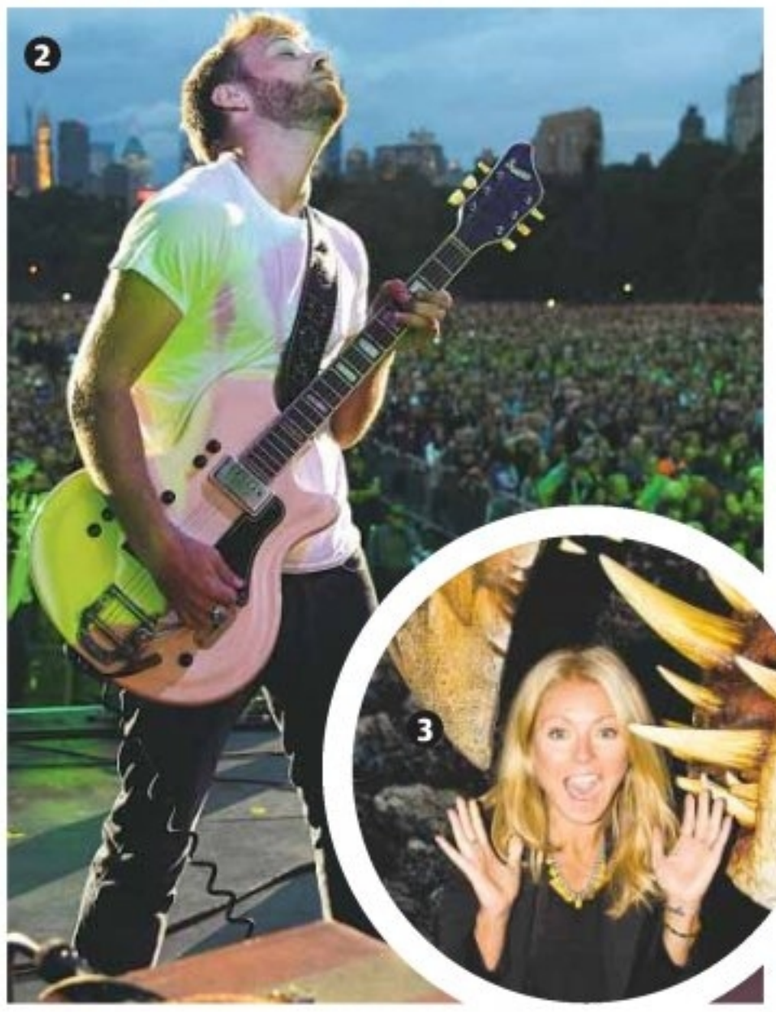
Akerman expecting her first little one

"Rock of Ages" star **Malin Akerman** is pregnant with her first child, her rep confirms to Us Weekly. Akerman and husband **Roberto Zincone** have reportedly been eager to have kids since tying the knot five years ago.

Hemsworth does not dig Cyrus' online writings

Miley Cyrus' recent bout of soul-searching on Twitter is making waves at home, according to Star magazine, as fiance **Liam Hemsworth** reportedly didn't appreciate some of the private musings she posted. "Miley's tweet was such a huge insult to Liam. She tried to pass it off like it had nothing to do with him, but it totally affected him, no matter what she tries to say," a source says. (The tweet in question? "Thought of the day: maybe it's not that they love you less, they just love you the most they are capable of loving.")

Entertainment shots from the weekend



1 **Jessica Stroup** and **Carmen Electra** attended the "90210" 100th episode celebration at Pink Taco Sunset Strip on Saturday in Los Angeles.

2 **Dan Auerbach** of The Black Keys rocked the Global Citizen Festival in Central Park To End Extreme Poverty at Central Park on Saturday in New York City.

3 **Kelly Ripa** visited the "How To Train Your Dragon" Live Spectacular at the Izod Center on Saturday in New Jersey.

4 **Mike Epps** performed onstage at the 2012 BET Hip Hop Awards.

5 **Eva Longoria** and comedian **George Lopez** arrived at the Padres Contra el Cancer's 12 annual "El Sueno de Esperanza" gala at the New Tropicana Las Vegas on Saturday in Las Vegas. The event raises funds to help fight childhood cancer.

6 All that bling can't cover up that inked chest: **Rick Ross** performed onstage at the 2012 BET Hip Hop Awards at Boisfeuillet Jones Atlanta Civic Center on Saturday in Atlanta.

1. MICHAEL BUCKNER/WIREIMAGE
2.KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE
3. BRUCE GLIKAS/FILMMAGIC
4.6.RICK DIAMOND/GETTY IMAGES FOR BET
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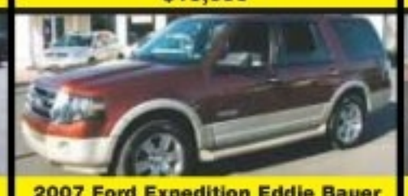
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THE 'PERKS' OF BEING LOGAN LERMAN

Already in possession of a solid résumé, the young actor reflects on his high school years, his awkward new character and his special performance of 'Rocky Horror'

Logan Lerman takes on some heavy material as the troubled teen at the center of "The Perks of Being a Wallflower," based on writer-director Stephen Chbosky's critically acclaimed young adult novel. Luckily, Lerman's own high school experience — during which he was already a professional actor — wasn't as heavy as Charlie's.

Where did you fit in the social scene in high school?
Well, I wasn't Charlie. I wasn't as much of a wallflower. But a lot of my friends were like him, and I had a lot to draw from. I wasn't very social outside of school, but I did know everybody. I was more interested in making short films and stuff like that. Most people weren't.

JOHN BRAMLEY

▶ Ever the outsider, Charlie (Logan Lerman) does his best to blend into the scenery in "The Perks of Being a Wallflower."

You have some rather revealing costume moments when your character joins in with "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."
That was one of the scenes that kind of scared me. It was a challenging arc to figure out. I was a little nervous about the whole thing, but those nerves are fuel for all the prep that was so necessary for this film.

How was the atmosphere with your cast members, including Emma Watson and Ezra Miller, when you weren't shooting?
When we weren't shooting, we would just hang out all the time. We were living in this little wing of a Crowne Plaza in the middle of this mall in a residential area, all of us living in this one hallway. Our doors were open 24/7, and we'd just walk in and out of each other's rooms, hanging out all the time playing music. We were like a little family.

Where do you go from here?
Fortunately now I'm in a place where I can kind of take my time, and all I want to do is work with filmmakers that I appreciate. Or take projects that I'm extremely passionate about.

On-set research

Did you talk to Stephen about how much of this was autobiographical?

I didn't ask. He'd offer insight a lot of the times, personal insight as to what the moment meant to him or what it was related to. It was very helpful. He knows this story. He knows every little detail of how he wanted to make it.

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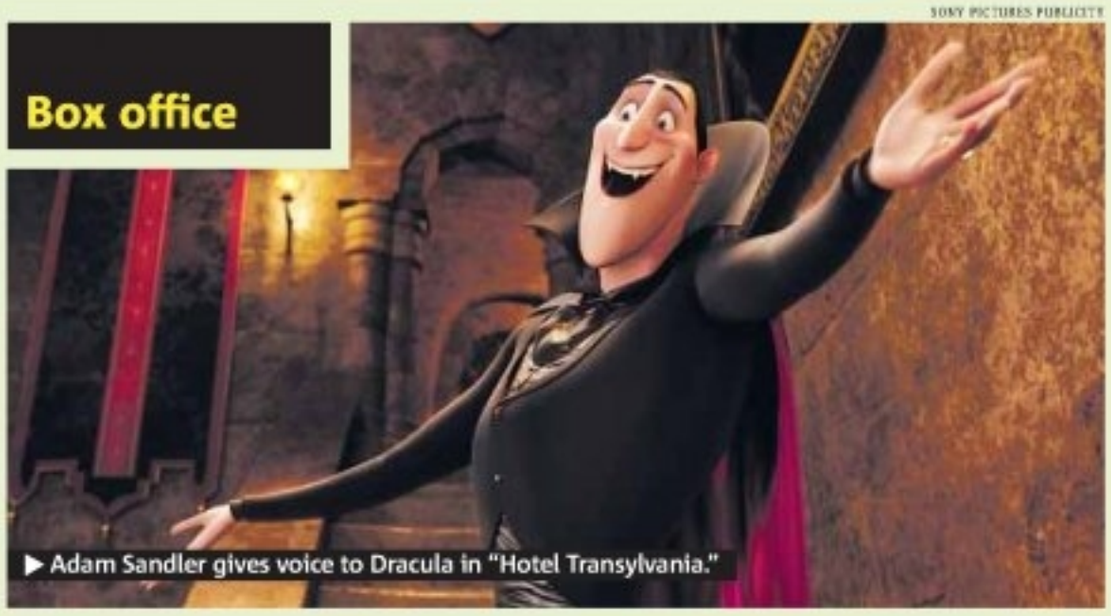

▶ Adam Sandler gives voice to Dracula in "Hotel Transylvania."

Monsters rule box office in 'Hotel Transylvania'

"Hotel Transylvania," a family film about a luxury resort for monsters, scared off competitors at the weekend box office with a chart-topping $43 million in U.S. and Canadian ticket sales, setting a record for the biggest September opening ever.

The 3-D, animated "Hotel Transylvania" features the voices of Adam Sandler and Selena Gomez in a story set at a hotel run by Dracula. As Frankenstein, the Invisible Man and other monsters gather for a party, a human boy stumbles on the resort and falls in love with Dracula's daughter.

In second place, new science fiction movie "Looper" took in $21.2 million from Friday through Sunday, according to studio estimates. Last weekend's winner, police drama "End of Watch," landed in third place with $8 million.

Sony Corp.'s movie studio released "Hotel Transylvania" and "Looper." "End of Watch" was distributed by Open Road Films.

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TV watch list

'iHeartRadio Music Festival'

SPECIAL. Rihanna, Bon Jovi, Taylor Swift, Mary J. Blige and other top artists play the usual kind of sets you'd expect to find at an event like this one, held over two days in Las Vegas last month. Green Day, meanwhile, added a little extra, unexpected flair with frontman Billie Joe Armstrong's now-viral, expletive-filled rant — which we're guessing will be edited out of this special (but you can still find on YouTube).
8 p.m., The CW

'Castle'

DRAMA. Secret relationships are fun until a flirty reporter begins to put the moves on Castle, and jealousy might get the best of Beckett.
10:01 p.m., ABC

'Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations'

REALITY. We could get teary over Bourdain's final season, but we're too busy wiping away the drool as the host explores Burgundy with French native celebrity chef Ludo Lefebvre.
9 p.m., Travel Channel

AMBER RAY

No child left behind

Director Daniel Barnz recalls coaxing actress Maggie Gyllenhaal to star in his inner-city school drama "Won't Back Down." "She was concerned about ... being away from her children — which is funny, because this movie is all about a great mom who sacrifices so much for her kid," he says. "But I was like, 'No, Maggie! Be a bad mother! Come be in this movie!'"

Gyllenhaal, who was eventually convinced, plays Jamie Fitzpatrick: the mother of a dyslexic second-grader. Determined to transform her daughter's failing Pittsburgh public school, Fitzpatrick joins forces with a frustrated teacher, Nona Alberts (Viola Davis). Together, the duo tackles a broken bureaucracy and gathers a cluster of educators along the way — including the charming Michael Perry (Oscar Isaac).

"I come from such progressive lefties that I wouldn't be allowed to go home for Thanksgiving if I made an anti-union movie," admits Gyllenhaal, responding to a range of critics who have already claimed that "Won't Back Down" attacks teachers' right to organize. "I fundamentally, wholeheartedly support unions," she says. "But I feel it's important to criticize the things that aren't working in any institution."

▶ Viola Davis and Maggie Gyllenhaal take on the system in "Won't Back Down."

"The film says that we, as people, need to challenge the status quo and not just live life by rote," stresses Davis in her signature staccato. Davis looked to her sister, Deloris Grant, a long-time English teacher, for inspiration. "Deloris is Nona," she claims. "She's someone who goes that extra mile and validates you as a person."

Both of the Oscar-nominated actors make multiple references to their offscreen children — while Gyllenhaal is the mother of two daughters, 6-year-old Ramona and 5-month-old Gloria Ray, Davis adopted a newborn girl, Genesis, last year. "Part of being a mother is teaching my daughter to live a life that's bigger than her," asserts Davis. "It's a requirement, especially in this country where there are so many people who want it all but don't want to work for it. So I kind of feel like that's the best thing I can give her," she says and considers it a moment. "That and Miss Jessie's curl cream."

Influences

Acting 101

"I had a teacher that inspired me in the fifth grade," remembers Isaac. "She told us to write a paragraph from the perspective of an animal on Noah's ark. So I went home and wrote this six-page production from a platypus's point of view. Thanks to the teacher, we put on the play. That was my introduction to acting!"

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22 Robert Leahy, 81 Michael Legrady, 43 Kimberly Simon, 112 Kevin Stevens.

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709 Catherine Ailex, 640 Delain Best (Best Maintenance), 1700 Cheryl Bullock, 43 Edward Deutch, 236 Ashley DiFerdinand, 11 Roberta Gaines, 406 Deborah Harris, 485 Sharon M. Jenkins, 430 DeMarco Johnson, 409 Andrea Miles, 2404 Jim Rappoport, 491 Domenic A. Rhedrick, 472 Dorothea Robinson, 325 Kina Sapp, 207 Walter Smith, 475 Robbin Stanton, 2017 Ultimate Trivia Takedown.

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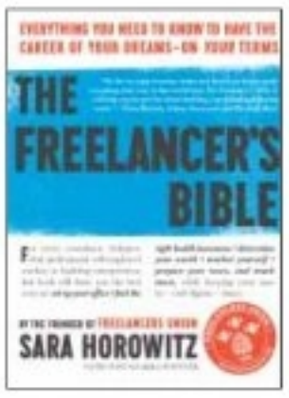
To be freelance and fancy-free

Working for yourself is never going to be easy But it can be a smoother ride if you know your rights and have a network 'The Freelancer's Bible' is here to help

BRAND X PICTURES

▶ The freelance office accommodations are pretty sweet, but inconsistent pay and lack of benefits can be a problem if you don't have a plan and do your research.

Sara Horowitz founded the New York-based Freelancers Union in 2003. Today, the union boasts 170,000 members and even created their own health insurance company in 2009. Her new book, "The Freelancer's Bible: Everything You Need to Know to Have the Career of Your Dreams — On Your Terms," will be released this month. We caught up with her for a preview.



How often do companies fail to pay freelancers?
From our surveys, 77 percent of people have had a client who hasn't paid. After health insurance, the No. 1 issue for people is not getting paid, getting paid late or getting partial payment.

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You need a good network. Find out about a company before you work for it, and don't keep working if they're not paying you. You can go to small claims court — but remember that even if you win, you may have to get a judgment. That can be a long process.

How do you insist on your rights while maintaining good relationships with your clients?
Of course, there's no simple answer to that. But it's always good to push for clarity: What is the assignment? What are the deliverables? It's often good to write a memo summarizing that to make sure everybody is on the same page.

A new route to health insurance

The Freelancers Insurance Company is currently only available for members living in New York state. But, beginning in 2014, the union will start three nonprofit health insurance companies in New York, New Jersey and Oregon. FIC claims their premiums are about 40 percent lower than typical individual plans. For more information, visit www.freelancersinsuranceco.com.

What is your response to people who say that unions have outlived their usefulness?
It's funny; in the 1920s people often said that unions were dead. They were talking about a craft model that was for a workplace of the 1880s. Suddenly, in the 1930s, with mass production, there was a whole new kind of unionism. What a union is will continue to evolve. But the old ones don't go away fully. They sit side by side.

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myjobs

Is human resources right for you?

- HR is a diverse field with many opportunities
- That said, there are some skills you'll need to have

When you're on the other side, it's easy to think that the HR department only issues dress codes. But dig a little deeper, and you might find that human resources is for you.

First, know that an HR position will vary by company. "Some HR roles, such as those in compensation and benefits, are often quite technical, require solid analytic and math skills, and relatively limited interaction with employees," explains James W. Smither, chair and professor of management and leadership at La Salle University.

HR professionals also play a crucial role in a business. "HR executives are managers of a company's most valuable resource — their talent," says Brad Everett, COO of human resources firm NorthgateArinso.

If you're looking into this field, consider key parts of your personality. "Do you have a strong sense of ethics and confidentiality?" asks Alicia Huppman, professor of human resources at Peirce College. "Working in HR, you will have to handle sensitive and confidential information. You'll have to learn to keep to yourself and not divulge anything, especially when talking with co-workers."

Rolling with it

Human resources requires that you be a bit of a cheerleader, even during stressful times of change. "HR professionals need to be able to personally handle change while also motivating others to adopt new ways of working," advises Elissa Tucker, a human capital management knowledge specialist with APQC, a business consultant company.

Quoted

"[HR executives] must possess a keen business mind to understand how talent affects the business, including the bottom line."

BRAD EVERETT, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER OF NORTHGATEARINSO

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How to keep politics out of the workplace

It's impossible to completely ignore the election If lines are crossed, there are ways to handle the situation

Every office has that one employee who feels compelled to share his views on divisive political issues. (It should go without saying, but just in case: Don't be that guy.) Come election season, however, even your tolerable co-workers are likely talking politics a bit. How to keep it more professional than the campaigns? We checked in with consultant Susan Heathfield, About.com's "Guide to Human Resources."

Quoted

"Think about your conversations at work: Are they advancing productivity or relationships? If not, you shouldn't be discussing it at work." HEATHFIELD

Think before you speak

Politics isn't the only topic that can lead to uncomfortable situations among co-workers. Before you bring up this morning's election headlines, consider how and why you're sharing the information. "Think about your conversations at work: Are they advancing productivity or relationships? If not, you shouldn't be discussing it at work," says Heathfield. "Politics is a hot button — just like religion and sexuality. It's very easy to go from 'this is my opinion' to 'this is what is right.'"

▶ Talk about things that will make you a stronger, happier, more productive office — in other words, not the election.

STOCKBYTE

Uncomfortable? Say something

Whether it's your boss or your assistant who's crossing the line, talk to them about it instead of merely resenting them. "You should be able to say, 'Hey, I'm really uncomfortable with all of this political stuff – can you stop it?'" says Heathfield. "Be very forthright."

If all else fails, talk to HR

A boss who rants about his or her political beliefs can easily and accurately be accused of discrimination, harassment and creating a hostile work environment — words that can quickly add up to "lawsuit." For this reason, says Heathfield, your HR department will be happy to help diffuse the situation before things get worse.

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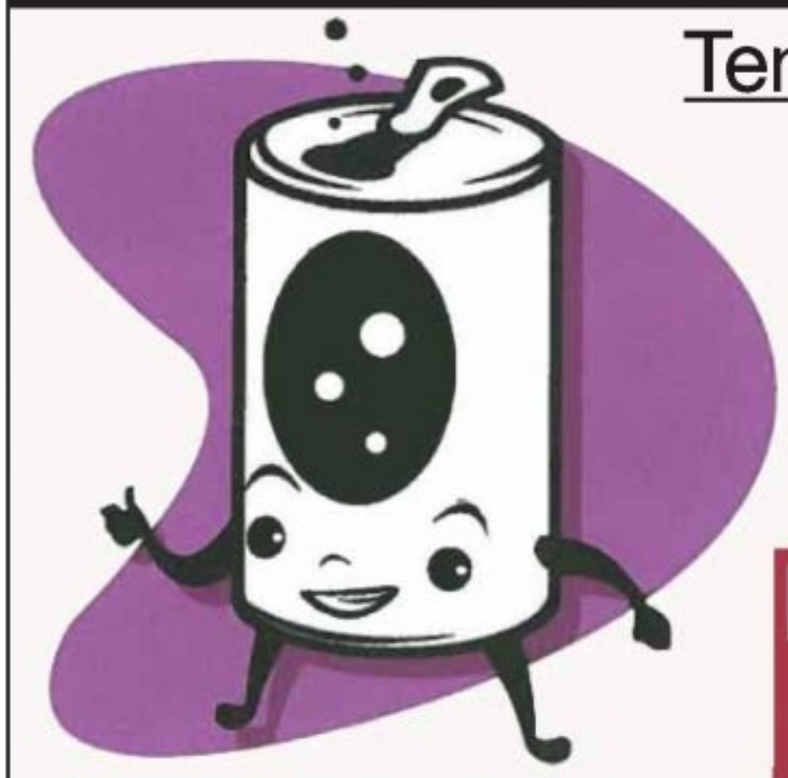

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myeducation

The changing face of college classrooms

As adult students sign up for courses, policymakers and institutions struggle to catch up UCLA professor Mike Rose's new book challenges the current system

PHOTODISC

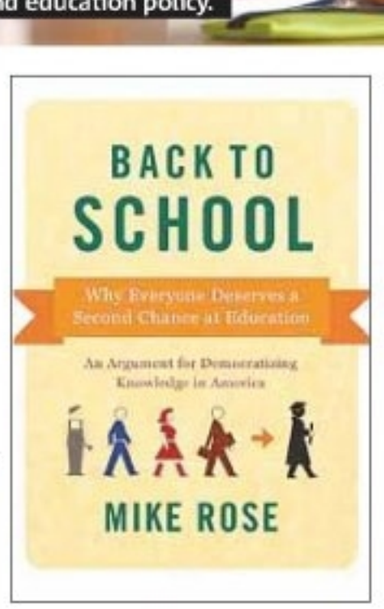
As the classroom gets older, author and professor Mike Rose calls for changes in curriculum and education policy.

Longtime author and UCLA education professor Mike Rose has been teaching "nontraditional" students for more than 30 years. In his latest book, "Back to School: Why Everyone Deserves a Second Chance at Education," Rose is adamant that an alternative path to higher education is fast becoming the norm, and it's about time colleges — as well as policymakers — adjust to that fact.

"There's a push right now from all over — government, economists, private business — for people to get more education," says Rose. "Yet we're seeing drastic budget cuts to adult schools, community and state colleges. These are the very institutions that can provide the services everyone thinks are so key to the nation's success."

Quoted

"Across the county we're seeing an increase in age of college students. We're seeing people that have been in the workforce and have started families. This has been a significant trend for a while, so pretty soon we won't be able to use the term 'nontraditional.'" AUTHOR MIKE ROSE


BACK TO SCHOOL
Why Everyone Deserves a Second Chance at Education
An Argument for Democratizing Knowledge in America
MIKE ROSE

45

Percentage of postsecondary students in the United States today who don't enroll in college directly out of high school, according to Mike Rose, author of "Back to School: Why Everyone Deserves a Second Chance at Education"

But "Back to School" isn't just focused on policy debates. Mining his vast experience in adult literacy, Rose challenges outdated theories. Among many suggestions, he advocates an immersive approach to remedial education, which, ideally, respects the intelligence of students while helping them develop core skills along the way.

"So many of these courses are locked into an approach that has been shown again and again not to be effective. They believe that if people are struggling with writing, you have to break it down into its tiniest parts. So people are stuck doing very basic language tasks," says Rose. "But the approach is too disembodied. We need to realize that just because folks might make spelling or verb tense mistakes, doesn't mean they can't deal with complex ideas. Let's create a curriculum that's rich in complex ideas, along with a lot of assistance in places where people need it."

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Put to the test

- Put down those stickers and stacking blocks, kiddo
- Kindergarten standardized tests are gaining steam

GETTY IMAGES

▶ There's a vast expansion of standardized testing, even in kindergarten.

A national push to make public schools more rigorous and hold teachers more accountable has led to a vast expansion of testing in kindergarten. And more exams are on the way, including a test meant to determine whether 5-year-olds are on track to succeed in college and their careers.

Paul Weeks, a vice president at test developer ACT Inc., says he knows that assessment sounds a bit nutty — especially since many kindergarteners aspire to careers as superheroes.

But Weeks said developing exams for younger ages is "high on our agenda." "There are skills that are essential for success, and you can back them down in a grade-appropriate manner," Weeks said. "Even in the early grades, you can find students who may be at risk."

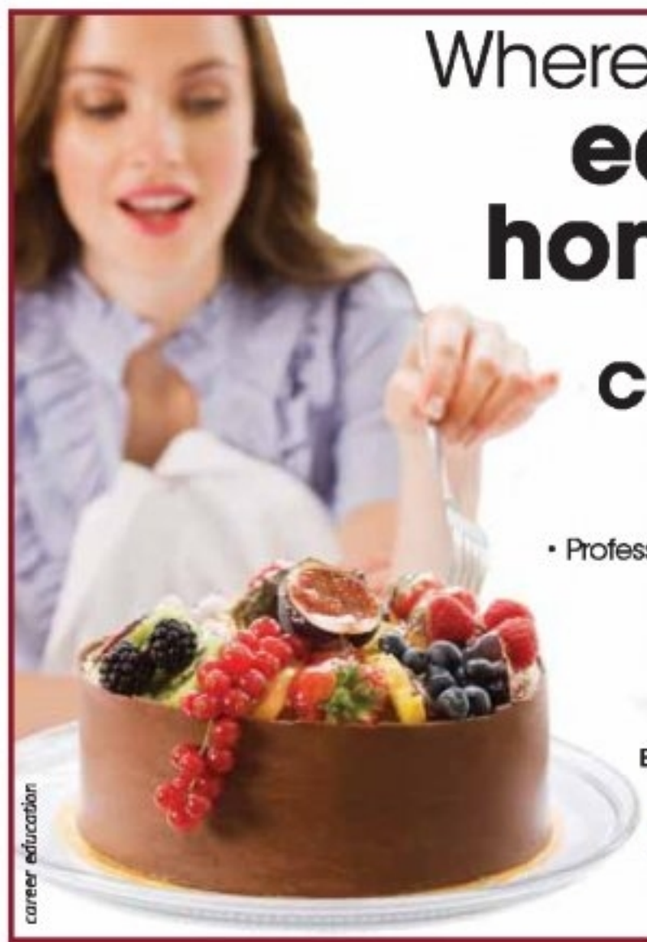
Advocates say it's vital to test early because too many kids fall irretrievably behind in their first years. The most recent national exams for fourth-graders found just 34 percent proficient in reading.

Opponents counter that testing puts undue stress on 5-year-olds and cuts into the time they should be playing and learning social skills. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"Even in the early grades, you can find students who may be at risk."

PAUL WEEKS, A VICE PRESIDENT AT ACT INC.



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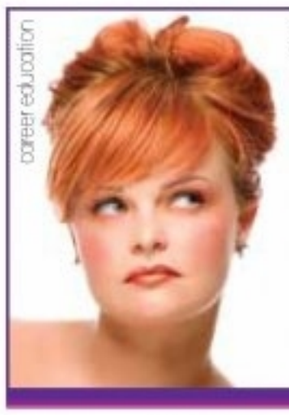

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Source: Scarborough R2 2010, Base 35K+

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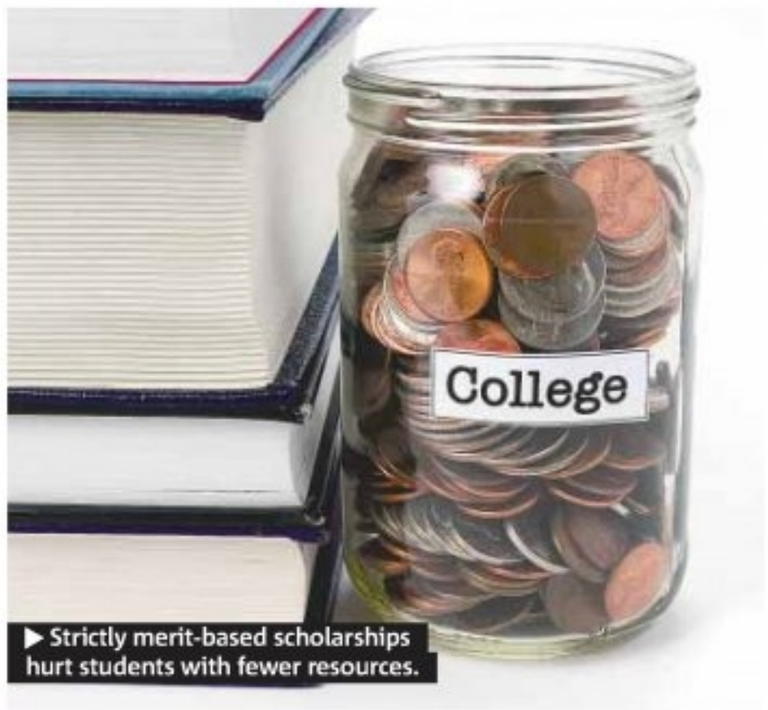

▶ Strictly merit-based scholarships hurt students with fewer resources.

COMSTOCK

No easy answers for scholarship funding

New study on a popular lottery-funded scholarship program suggests it may actually widen the class gap in higher education

Back in 1993, Georgia enacted the HOPE Scholarship, which provides merit-based scholarships, through lottery proceeds, to in-state students to attend any of Georgia's state universities. It has been an enormously popular program, but not without critics.

Some researchers have made a case that such a large, strictly merit-based scholarship actually widens the gap in class and racial disparity. And, since HOPE is funded through the lottery, poor people wind up paying a disproportionate chunk of the cost. More than half of HOPE recipients lose their funding in the second year because of a failure to meet the merit requirements.

In 2003, Tennessee enacted its own version of HOPE (albeit with far fewer resources). A recent study by University of Missouri researcher Charles E. Menifield found that poor students are far more likely to lose their HOPE scholarships in Tennessee. Moreover, poor African-American men are at the greatest risk of losing funding.

"The people who are least likely to lose their scholarships, typically, are the ones that can afford to pay for college," says Menifield.

The study is of pivotal importance because of diminishing resources in state coffers, and suggestions by some, in both Tennessee and Georgia, that the merit bar be raised for HOPE scholarships.

Quoted

"The people who are least likely to lose their scholarships, typically, are the ones that can afford to pay for college."
MENIFIELD

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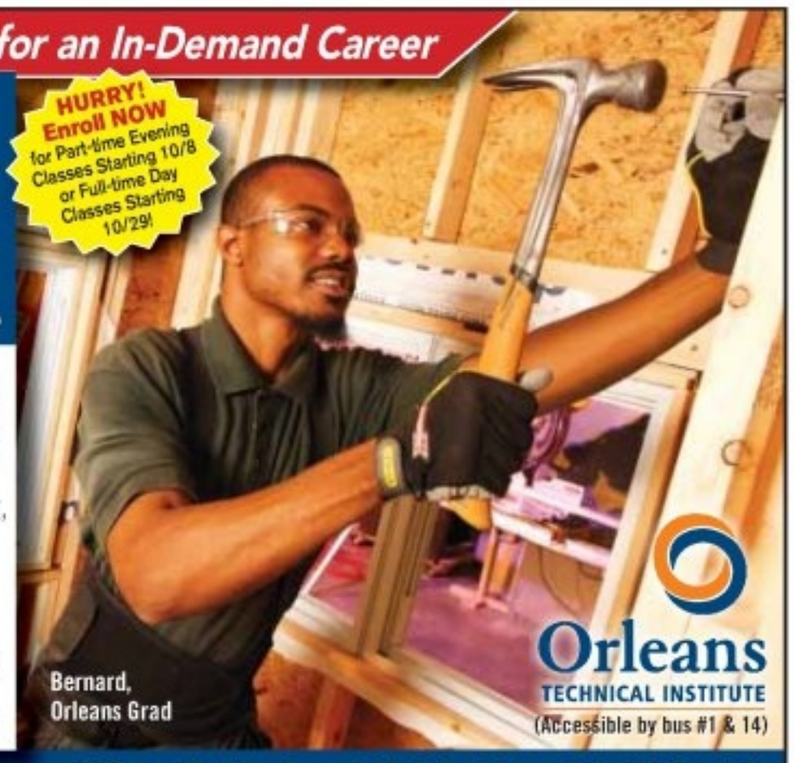

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Letters

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Apparently donkeys weigh a lot more than elephants

RE: "POLL: OBAMA LEADS ROMNEY 40 DAYS BEFORE ELECTION" (METRO, SEPT. 28-30) The Reuters/Ipsos poll that was cited in Friday's paper showing that Obama is up by 7 percent over Romney is a work of fiction, not science. The partisan makeup of the poll's sample was 53 percent Democrats; 38 percent Republicans; and 9 percent Independents. It's not surprising that a poll comprised of more than 50 percent Dems favors Obama! But these numbers don't reflect the actual partisan split of the electorate, which is currently 33-38-29 percent Democrat, Republican and Independent, respectively. If this poll's data is weighted by an accurate partisan split, it actually shows that Romney is leading by 10 percent (54 percent to 44 percent)! Much of the media are doing the same thing in their polling: They are overweighting the number of Democrats sampled, and underweighting the others. If the data in these polls is unskewed, almost all of them show that Romney is leading both nationally and in the swing states.

RON SHELTON, VIA E-MAIL

Yelling "Fire!" not the same as lighting an ideological one

RE: "OR DOES IT LIE ALSO IN THE FILMMAKER?" (METRO, SEPT. 28-30) A.J. Mikofsky reminds us once again that falsely yelling "Fire!" in a theater is not protected speech, but fails to recognize that an important reason for this is that "Fire!" is not an opinion, and it's the expression of opinion that the Speech Clause is mostly intended to protect. The video may have been mean and ugly, but it was an opinion. As for being a deliberate provocation, the legal response to "you're a @#$%" is "so's your old man."

HARVEY WACHTEL, VIA E-MAIL

I just have to offer a little education for those who compare yelling "Fire!" in a crowded theater and the video about Islam: The Supreme Court banned yelling "Fire!" in a crowded theater because the reaction to that is a survival instinct that results in people being killed and injured as people try to save themselves.

There is NEVER a justification to attack and kill innocent people because you are a zealot and use your religion to justify horrible acts. The only ones to blame are those murderers and their supporters.

ANDY NELSON, VIA E-MAIL

We've got more direct deposit than direct democracy

Why do billions of dollars get spent every four years on an election for president and vice president when the citizens of the U.S. have never been given the legal right to elect either of them? The citizens only elect a group of individuals who cast votes later in the electoral college. Would not the time and money be better spent, as the presidential election campaign seems to now be four full years now, to perhaps turn all of that focus back to the pressing matters facing our country's citizens?

MATTHEW SPENCER, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** If you enter into an alliance of convenience that you know won't be ideal but has some worth, be realistic and you won't be disappointed.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Most of the time when you depend upon who instead of what you know, you are inviting disappointment. In order to cut the mustard, you had better bring your skills to the table.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** When with a group of friends, if you see somebody controlling the floor and the conversation while leaving most people out, quickly step to the fore and bring others in.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Substantial frustration can be avoided if don't allow people to focus their effort on a situation that is already under control.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** If you feel you've been held back in your chosen field of endeavor, start taking measures to correct the situation. Begin by accentuating your skills, not your contacts.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Someone might invite you to participate in a project that looks like it has a lot of profitable potential. Maybe it does, maybe it doesn't — but you won't know unless you try.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** If your progress has been impeded lately, chances are it has something to do with the way you've been handling certain key relationships. Make amends; it will pay off big time.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Don't grumble if you have to step in and help shoulder some of the work assigned to another, especially if there have been times when others had to help you in the past.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Take care that in your haste you do not attempt to prematurely launch an important undertaking. Make sure that you have all the necessary pieces at hand and ready for use.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Don't let it upset you if a project that you're better qualified to do then most goes to another. Should the party do a rotten job, it'll come around to you.

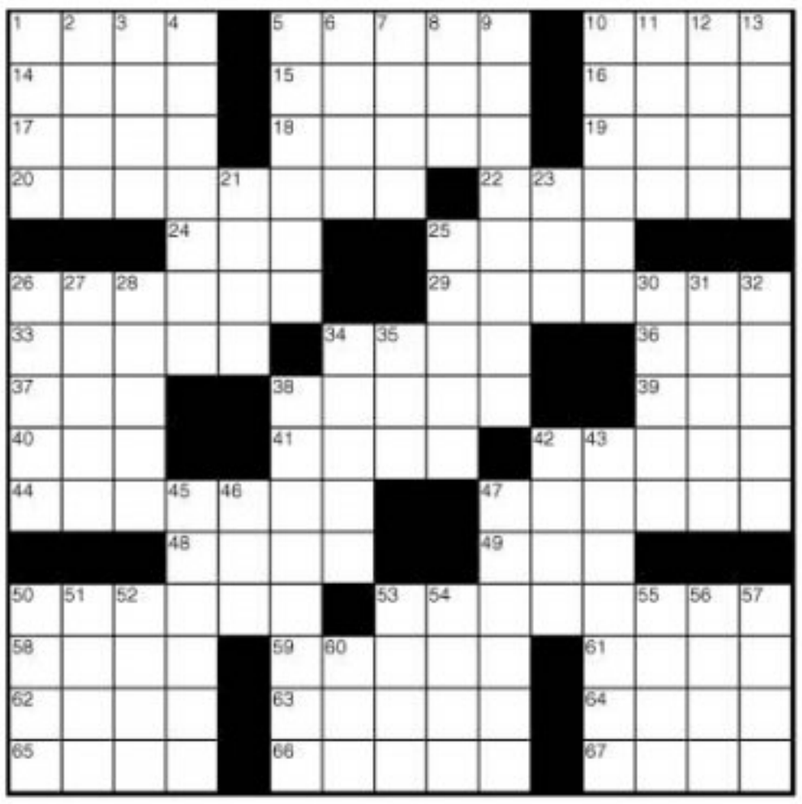
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Even though you usually don't let others do your thinking for you, you could be susceptible to someone who makes a good case and allow that person to lead you astray.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Look out for a subtle something that could greatly help enhance your material security. It may not jump out and announce its presence, but you'll know it when you spot it.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Fortune's partner
5 Tough fabric
10 Karate move
14 Holly shrub
15 Bedouin, for one
16 Icy precip
17 DEA operative
18 Speculate
19 As well as
20 Strayed from the norm
22 Fastened shut
24 Occupy a chair
25 Two fives for — —
26 With little room to spare
29 Shaggy
33 Accumulate
34 Grievance, slangily
36 — Nol of Cambodia
37 Hearty laugh
38 Davis or Cahn
39 Never, to Wolfgang
40 Compass dir.
41 Burden
42 Choir selection
44 Cardinal
47 Shamelessly bold
48 Vigoda and Fortas
49 Baby's seat
50 One of helium's two
53 Climbing irons
58 — puppy
59 Mix-up
61 List detail
62 This, in Madrid
63 Jobs or Martin
64 Feminine suffix
65 Pull dandelions
66 Replaced a button
67 Pink wine

Down
1 Come upon
2 Botanist's wings
3 Vanna's boss
4 Cuts out
5 Problematic
6 Fervent wish
7 In the course of
8 Nebr. neighbor
9 Peg
10 Franchise stores
11 Lecture room
12 Seine feeder
13 Lumber along
21 Feels under par
23 — Lingus (Dublin carrier)
25 Throat-clearing sounds
26 Advil competitor
27 Act funny
28 Did a fall chore
30 Humerus neighbors
31 Slaves away
32 Us, to Pogo
34 Halftime marchers
35 Ostrich kin
38 Post-exercise feeling
42 Wheels for nanny
43 More maudlin
45 Enjoyed a soak
46 Nigerian tribe
47 Played loudly
50 Relieved sigh
51 Artifice
52 Bone, in combos
53 Pilot, et al.
54 Travel far and wide
55 Dog in "Beetle Bailey"
56 Earns as profit
57 Fictional pirate
60 PO itinerary



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	7	6			3		2	
		4		2				
2		8				4		7
				7		3		
	9		8			5	6	
		5	9	4		1		
				5	1		7	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

7	9		3		5			1
4	3			2			7	
		6			7	9		
						8		7
	8						4	
9		4						
		7	9			1		
	2			7			3	4
5			4		3		9	2

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to weekend's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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DRIVE TIME FINE

Eagles go on yet another late drive to earn home win over NFC East rival
Giants field goal falls short at end McCoy carries offense on his back

AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

EAGLES 19 | GIANTS 17 **Next Sunday: at Pittsburgh**

▶ LeSean McCoy had 123 yards on 23 carries, including 32 yards on the Eagles' final drive.

What went right ...

1 Feed the horse — Andy Reid stuck with his ground game. Despite a shaky first half from LeSean McCoy (six carries for two yards) — blame a poor effort from the offensive line there — the pass-happy coach kept the defense honest. He kept feeding McCoy.

2 No turnovers — We never thought we'd see it after three weeks of some of the sloppiest football ever played, but it happened. The Eagles got through a game without turning the ball over.

3 Vick-tory — Mike Vick played his best game of the season. He threw for 241 yards on 19-of-30 passing and rushed for 49. Most importantly, he made no mistakes. MIKE GREGER

36
Giants receiver Ramses Barden's offensive pass interference one play before the missed kick put them back to the 36.

Utley will consider offseason knee surgery

Second baseman Chase Utley doesn't want what happened this year to happen next year as well.

Utley, who didn't play until the end of June with knee issues, answers questions after yesterday's win about his offseason plans.

"At this point, I think it's important for me to have an open mind about something that could help," Utley said.

He said no options were off the table, including the stem cell procedure Yankee Alex Rodriguez underwent last season.

"I have heard some positive things about it," he said. "I just don't know if their conditions are the same as mine." METRO

3

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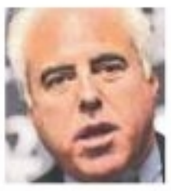
Dawkins honored on emotional night

- Former safety returns to see his No. 20 retired in halftime ceremony
- Dawkins: 'I will always be an Eagle in my heart'
- Led team onto field

Brian Dawkins reprised his greatest moment on the night the Eagles officially retired his jersey. In 2005, when the Birds finally broke through after three straight losses in the NFC Championship game, Dawkins celebrated by shouting out, "First of all, hallelujah!"

The safety — the greatest in franchise history — started his press conference last night with those same words. Dawkins has been in Philadelphia all weekend. He was even the victim of a Comedy Central roast-style dinner party.

"I didn't grow up thinking about anything like this and I've said this a number of times, and I meant that," Dawkins said. "I didn't grow up thinking I was going to get my number retired somewhere. I just wanted to go out and do my best for whomever it is I got a chance to play for."



"A Brian Dawkins doesn't come along every day. He is one of the very best the Eagles have ever had." JEFF LURIE, OWNER

And that chance came mostly with the Eagles, where Dawkins played 13 of his 16 NFL seasons. He started 182 of a possible 183 games and recorded 898 tackles, 34 interceptions and 21 sacks. More importantly, he captured the hearts of Eagles fans like no other player ever had — or ever will. Approximately 1,000 fans cramped into the bowels of the stadium to send him off.

"This is a tremendous honor," Dawkins said. "I will always be an Eagle in my heart and I will always, always look to represent this organization and you guys [the fans] to the best of my abilities. Thank you very much.'

Dawkins came out of the tunnel — barreling out in true Wolverine form — with his former team. At halftime, he addressed the crowd and his No. 20 was retired.

"It's been a long time since we put a number up on this wall, but a Brian Dawkins doesn't come along every day," Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said. "He is one of the very best the Eagles have ever had."

MIKE GREGER
mgreger@metro.us

DREW HALLOWELL/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Brian Dawkins, shown here in 2008, had his No. 20 retired at halftime during last night's Eagles-Giants game. The safety played 13 seasons with Philadelphia.

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▶ Titans QB Jake Locker, pictured, was knocked out of the game with a left shoulder injury,

NFL shakes out in Week 4

Fans, players and coaches across the country rejoiced when they learned the referees had reached a deal with the league and would be back this weekend. The results were games with more of a rhythm and more consistency, making the entire Sunday slate much more enjoyable to watch.

San Francisco 49ers 34
New York Jets 0
The 49ers steamrolled the Jets on the road Sunday afternoon, due in large part to 24 second-half points. The 49ers defense forced four Jets turnovers and held the Jets to just 145 yards of total offense. There were some chants for Tim Tebow as Mark Sanchez struggled with throwing, with just 103 yards passing and an INT.

Minnesota Vikings 20
Detroit Lions 13
In a bit of an upset, the Vikings defeated the Lions in Detroit on the back of their special teams play. Percy Harvin started the game off with a 105-yard kick-off return and Marcus Sherels had a 77-yard punt return mid-way through the third quarter to lead the Vikings.

Houston Texans 38
Tennessee Titans 14
The Texans continue to show why they were picked by many to win the AFC, as they are now 4-0 following Sunday's 24-point win over the Titans. The Texans returned two interceptions for touchdowns, while quarter-back Matt Schaub threw for 202 yards and two touchdowns.

Atlanta Falcons 30
Carolina Panthers 28
In one of the more exciting games on Sunday, the Falcons improved to 4-0 on the leg of kicker Matt Bryant as his 40-yarder with five seconds left gave the Falcons a come-from-behind win. RYAN HANNABLE

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2065 Maurice Tucker	2066 Thomas Wiley	2199 Henry Williams	2253 Tawanda Cason
1082 Patricia Debraganza	1253 Eddie Lee Dupree	1262 Carl Gamble	1263 Gary Avent
2238 Marie Thompson			

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Property Manager: Francesca Milord • Date and Time of Auction: **Tuesday, October 16th, 2012 @ 3:30pm**

1055 Cambell Sojourn	1077 Skinner Rosemarie	1166 Ives Hien	1204 Bryant Alphonso
1209 Ballard Ebony	1217 Redding John	1220 Steven Lawson	1241 Dominick Basso
1253 Cook Wendell	1322 Phasavath Jude	1333 Duane Wilkins	1346 Raymesha Laten
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M139	Bomber, Thomas	household items	J913	Delvalle, Vilma	household items
S153	Irving, Michael	household items	S110	Pantojas, Matilde	household items
S171	Giberson, Ian	household items	S113	Clark, Michael Anthony	household items
M733	Lopez, Zoila	household items	M720	Jeffcoat, Pamela	household items
D317	Velazquez, Wanda	household items	L244	Jackson, Anthony	household items
M705	Colon, Crystal	household items	G656	Walker, Luis	household items
S177	Jones, Carslie W	household items	T847	Stone, Donte	household items
S179	Arnold, Alvin	household items	S705	Anderson, Shawnte	household items
G628	Carrasquillo, Andrew	household items	G627	Brunson, Jasmine	household items

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Property Manager: Laura Gonzalez • Date and Time of Auction: **Tuesday, October 16th, 2012 @ 12:30pm**

2024 Torres, Rosse	2035 James, Felicia M.	2039 Rodriguez, Zaida
2064 Brown, Tanya	2132 DeJesus, Zulma	2146 Wynne, Dawn
3070 Robbins, Daniel	3081 Karuza, Cammy	3185 Montes, Jackie

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134 Otto Meadows	1177 Reginald Drew	2162 Carnell Ross	3041 Dedra West
1015 Sharon Davis	2001 John Timms	2181 Maria Bagner	3062 Robert Williams
1039 Dayna Harris	2011 Timothy King	2200 Shamyra Harris	3070 Sharon Goines
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1105 Anthony Byrne	1806 Celestial Tabernacle	2402 Andrew Sparks	2628 Lisa Lewis
1106 Anthony Byrne	1807 Anthony McDonnaugh	2415 Andrew Sparks	2633 Anthony Byrne
1119 Belinda William	2114 Syreeta Willis	2423 Phila Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund	2635 Anthony Byrne
1147 Anthony Byrne	2206 Rhaem Payton		2700 Sean Carmichael
1206 Anthony Byrne	2236 Millenium Distributors	2522 Randolph Brooks Jr.	2706 Keisha Williams
1207 Anthony Byrne	2313 Bettina Dallas	2600 Shawn Morgan	2718 Kyle Holman
1224 Anthony Byrne	2320 Dorothy Davis	2603 William Hanscom	2916 Cedric Boyd
1403 Donna Athey	2330 Miriam Robinson	2622 Kenya Evans	3004 Novelette Talbert
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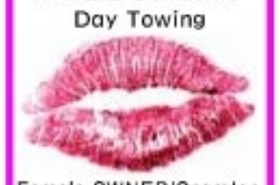
Female OWNER/Operator
215-801-4216
JunkyardBarbie.com

WE BUY ANY AND ALL JUNK CARS $200-600
We also offer towing services. Cars can be running or not running.
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Junk Cars and Towing

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Services

Auto

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FOR COMPLETE JUNK CARS AND TRUCKS
Free Towing-Same Day-
Used Vehicles and Parts for Sale
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Careers

Legal Services

MUST SEE
To catch a cheating spouse
267-971-9261

GPS Vehicle Tracking:
We have the ability to put a "Real Time" GPS tracking device on your spouses vehicle when legally permissible. We can use device to either monitor remotely or while doing a surveillance, devices can be rented by the day, week or month. We track it for you discreetly and confidentially. The call is free but can you afford to let this continue any longer?
267-971-9261

DIVORCE
$179 Complete!
Uncontested, No-Fault, Mutual Consent
215-219-2520
Document Prep Service, Not a Lawyer

Vehicles Wanted

$$$ UP TO $1100.00 $$$
For Cars w/ Bad Engines w/or w/o title
500.00 CASH $$$
For Any Junk Cars or Trucks
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Delivery & Trucking

ASAP Cleanouts No Job is too Odd. Free Estimates! Full House Clean-outs: garages, attics, basements, etc. Pools, Decks & Sheds. Plus exterior cleanups. Will beat any price. Call Brian 215-801-0641

Miscellaneous

DIABETIC TEST STRIPS NEEDED
Also nicotine patches.
Will pay up to $15 per box.
I will pick-up. Call James
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$$CASH PAID$$
Buying diabetic test strips, nicotine patches and gum. We beat ALL competitor's prices.
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Have you or a loved one been diagnosed with schizophrenia?

If so, contact us today to learn about a clinical research study of an investigational schizophrenia medication for adults ages 18 to 65.

Qualified participants receive:

- All study-related medical care and investigational medication at no cost
- Total compensation up to $3,500 for time and travel

For more information, call toll-free **1-888-442-9012**

Do you suffer from **CHRONIC PAIN?**

Learn more about an investigational once-a-day pain medication.

Local doctors are currently conducting a clinical trial of an investigational once-a-day pain medication for patients who have been medically diagnosed with moderate to severe chronic nonmalignant or non-neuropathic pain.

To pre-qualify for this trial, patients must:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Have a diagnosis of moderate to severe chronic pain, not due to cancer or injury to nerves, as a primary pain condition for at least three months prior to this trial

All trial-related visits, tests, and medications will be provided to participants at no cost. In addition, compensation for time and/or travel may be provided.

To learn more, please contact *CRILifetree*:

1.866.449.2866

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CRITrials.com

Are you, or does someone you know living with **Parkinson's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis,** or **Alzheimer's Disease?**

If so, please contact ***CRILifetree***'s

Center of Excellence *for* Neurology Research

to learn about participating in a research study.

Medical insurance is not required to participate in any of our studies. Transportation to and from the study center is available.

Qualified Study Participants May Receive { Study-related care and study medication at no cost; Compensation up to $500 for time and travel

Call toll-free **1-866-628-6968**

We are dedicated to advancing the research of neurological disorders.

Do you have **multiple sclerosis,** or do you know someone who does?

We know how much multiple sclerosis can affect an individual's quality of life.

That is why we are conducting a research study of an investigational medication for multiple sclerosis.

Insurance is not required and transportation is available.

Qualified participants may receive:

- Study-related care and study medication at no cost
- Compensation up to $500 for time and travel

For more information, call local toll-free **1-877-266-8048**